

## **FACT SHEET**

### **San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) Has the Highest Rates**

- SDG&E has the highest rates in California; (U.S. Dept. of Energy 2003).
- SDG&E has filed for a \$100 million rate increase before the Public Utilities Commission.
- SDG&E's profits jumped approximately 11% in the first quarter of 2004—from \$45 million to \$50 million (Union Tribune, April 30, 2004).
- SDG&E collected more than \$100 million dollars from Chula Vista ratepayers in 2003.
- Unlike other private utilities in California SDG&E has no public utility competition.
- For almost two years Chula Vista has been the only city in San Diego County actively fighting SDG&E rate increases on behalf of local ratepayers.

### **Public Utilities Have Lower Rates and are More Reliable**

- American Public Power Association Reports that U.S. public utilities rate are approximately 15% less on average nationally than their private utility counterparts.
- U.S. Dept of Energy, Energy Information Administration reports that SDG&E rates are 40% higher than the average rate for 36 California public utilities.
- Public utilities did not experience the same level of service interruption during the energy crisis and are potentially not subject to the same state scheduled brown outs.

### **Public Utilities Are Locally Controlled**

- Revenues are reinvested in the community, monies benefit Chula Vista residents not corporate utility shareholders.
- Local land use decisions; where and how power lines and utility boxes are placed.
- SDG&E wants to build another 46 MW plant in Chula Vista, to place another 13.5 miles of transmission lines and new poles above ground in Chula Vista part in the Bay Front, while proposing to **underground** power lines in the City of San Diego, and just added three new power lines on the Bay Front.
- Local decisions on investment of conservation funds and renewable power.
- Local decisions on rate structure, revenue and energy procurement investments.

### **City Public Utility Business Facts**

- Chula Vista would be the 11<sup>th</sup> largest of 36 California public utilities and is growing.
- Chula Vista would be in the top 50 of almost 1,900 national public utilities.
- Chula Vista represents approximately 7% of total meters and 9% of the total electricity and natural gas demand for the SDG&E service territory.
- Chula Vista's current energy peak demand is approximately 150 Megawatts (MW) and is expected to increase to approximately 250 (MW) in the next 18 years.
- SDG&E imports more than 50% of locally consumed power from outside the region (12% from coal, more than all renewable purchases combined).
- AB 117 authorizes local governments to purchase electricity and deliver it to customers in its jurisdiction over existing utility infrastructure.
- Large energy consuming businesses are requesting the opportunity to buy electricity directly and have it delivered over utilities' existing infrastructure be re-instituted.
- Chula Vista can take possession of new energy infrastructure at minimal cost and operate as a utility in the newly developed areas; "Greenfield" or "spot" municipal utility.